

REMARKSStatus of the claims:

With the above amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-6 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendment. Claim 1 has been amended by adding language to incorporate the correct language for a Markush group. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Improper Markush Language

The Examiner objects to claim 1 asserting that improper claim language is used. Applicants have amended claim 1 following the Examiner's recommendation. Applicants believe that with this amendment that the objection has been obviated. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 have been rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by Relyveld '686 (US Patent No. 4,350,686). Applicants traverse.

Applicants respectfully point out that nowhere in Relyveld '686 does the word "denature" appear. The passage that is cited by the Examiner, which the Examiner asserts teaches "denaturing" at column 4, lines 64 et seq. says:

It is clear that the adsorption was very effective, since the overall diminution of the reaction on the skin was  $(22-8.5)/22=61.4\%$ .

Applicants submit that this passage does not teach denaturation as the Examiner asserts but rather teaches adsorption. The diminution in the reaction of the skin is due to the allergen adsorbing to the gel (which contains calcium phosphate) and not due to denaturation.

The instant claims are directed to "a method for denaturing allergens".-- Applicants respectfully point out that adsorption and denaturation are completely different processes. Accordingly, the rejection over Relyveld '686 is inapposite. Withdrawal of the rejection is warranted and respectfully requested.

With the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that a passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17;  
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for denaturing allergens originated from mites, hair or epithelium of pets, cockroaches, feathers, fungi and pollens of plants which comprises applying an effective amount of an alkaline earth metal salt selected from the group consisting of calcium and strontium salts to a place where allergens exist or will exist.